

CITY WELCOMES BELGIAN MISSION

Public Dinner to Members
Abandoned Because of Na-
tional Mourning.

TO SEE ROOSEVELT TO-DAY

Baron Moncheur Confident
That America's Aid Will
Win War.

New York took the Belgian war mission to its big, throbbing heart yesterday. New York, suffraged, almost, with official receptions during the last few months, forgot for the day that it had tried to avoid even its own hospitality in extending greetings to one after another visiting delegation from across the Atlantic and lavished its affection and gratitude on the representatives of proud, plucky little Belgium.

Despite all the enthusiasm, manifested a hundred times as the statesmen and soldiers and diplomats were whisked about the city and taken through lines of acclaiming craft in bay and river, the welcome was marked by a reverential note as befitting the greeting accorded by a grateful nation to the savior of the world.

This was emphasized by the deference paid to the mission as representatives of Belgium. The State Department had specially requested that there be no public dinner. Accordingly a private dinner given by a committee of individuals at the Ritz-Carlton last night was attended by fewer than a hundred persons and was behind closed doors and without speaking. The guests declared further that, much as they appreciated the honors paid them, they were here on a purely business mission.

Visitors on Sightseeing Tour.

The activities of the visitors began at 9 o'clock, when they were taken for a drive through Central Park and 12th street to the Battery. The State Department had specially requested that there be no public dinner. Accordingly a private dinner given by a committee of individuals at the Ritz-Carlton last night was attended by fewer than a hundred persons and was behind closed doors and without speaking. The guests declared further that, much as they appreciated the honors paid them, they were here on a purely business mission.

Arriving at the Battery the visitors were saluted by 400 marines and blue-jackets from the battleship Wyoming, under command of Lieut. J. S. Dowell, and by a small army of Boy Scouts and Naval Reserve cadets. The mission was in command of five platoons of mounted policemen, under Lieut. Walsh, and Squadron A and Troops B and D, commanded by Major W. R. Wright. Broadway from Battery plaza to City Hall Park was lined with a dense mass of cheering civilians, who waved flags of all the allied nations as the party drove through the narrow lane. Gondolas of black, yellow and red the national colors of Belgium, outlined the coast of honor formed in front of the City Hall, and the American flag flew from the top of the building.

Before the entrance to the hall the Belgian mission was met by the Mayor, James Schuyler, and a wide V, and facing the soldiers were detachments of marines and sailors from the Brooklyn navy yard. About the building was thrown a cordon of police under command of acting Chief Inspector Dwyer. American Junior Naval and Marine Scouts lined the steps and the portico.

Greeted by Mayor Mitchell.

Mayor Mitchell greeted the commissioners at the entrance and escorted them to the Aldermanic chamber, presided over by the members of the Mayor's committee. Ascending the rostrum in the chamber the Mayor extended his address of welcome, in which he said in part:

"Since the day when the waning aggression of Prussian autocracy tore up the treaty of 1839 as a scrap of paper, and hurled the first German regiment across the frontier of Belgium in flagrant violation of her neutrality, the heart of America has gone out to your country and your people. With unbounded admiration the people of New York and of all America watched the magnificent resistance of your brave soldiers to overwhelming odds; how the indomitable spirit of Belgium's little but heroic army stopped the rush of German conquest; how the brave men of Belgium and English marshaled their forces and saved Paris.

"We are now allied in a common cause. This cannot end—indeed, we are pledged to it until the day when the Belgian people are restored to their own territory, and their national integrity restored against aggression for all time. To that America, in common with her allies, is pledged with all of her resources, a pledge that for the safety of Belgium, for the safety of America and of the world must be redeemed by the fighting manhood of America upon the battlefields of Europe."

Mr. Couderc, who followed, said in the course of his address:

"I believe—and I have scanned the pages of history for a parallel—that there is no instance so momentous in human records as those that first days in August, when the fate of the world literally hung on the choice of Belgium. We welcome you in our homes. We welcome you in our hearts. We welcome you at every portal. I speak for the citizenry of the city of New York."

Reply by Baron Moncheur.

Baron Moncheur, much moved, responded to the address of welcome with a speech in English, which he read.

"We have been sent by your king to express to the Government of the United States and through the Government to the noble American nation, the heartfelt thanks of our sovereign, of our Government and of all our people, for the generous aid that has been given to our stricken fellow citizens and for what America is now doing to win back our independence and to make the world safe for all liberty loving nations."

"We are determined to fight the German military aggression and to die in the last ditch rather than to give up our independence. And you here in America, you have joined us, together to fight that holy war. Now that you have entered the lists against Prussian military autocracy we know that our cause and the cause of civilization is safe."

Following the exercises in the City Hall the mission, preceded by the mounted police escort, was driven through Lafayette and Fourth streets to Washington Square, which was filled with a crowd of many thousands of civilians. Soldiers of the Second Brigade who had come from Van Cortlandt Park to act as a guard of honor and 600 members of the Wanamaker card corps lined the square.

At the party held beneath the Washington Arch Col. W. D. Earnest, commander of the cadet, presented the flag and stripes and the flag of the city of New York and a gold medal to

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Plays "Rich Slackers" and
Says Next Year's Bill May
Be \$30 Billions.

FOR A BOOST IN TAXES

Senator Asserts Wealthy
Should Bear Heavier Bur-
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—The argument begun yesterday by Senator Johnson of California in favor of the more complete description of wealth to defray the expenses of war was continued in the Senate today by Senator La Follette. His speech took up in detail the line of argument advanced yesterday by Mr. Johnson and for three hours the Wisconsin Senator held the attention of the Senate. Senator Weeks of Massachusetts made a response.

By the friends of the revenue bill as reported from the Finance Committee that the theory of taxation advanced by the majority presented an opportunity for argument.

Advocates of the bill insist that it is only the fundamental revenue plan, the basis for such future tax legislation as may be necessary.

They assert that the system which the bill outlines, both with regard to war profits taxes and income taxes, is more equitable and more just than the present system of taxation. They also claim that the bill is necessary to meet the financial necessities of the Government as to be defined by the developments of the world war.

A known majority of the Senate adhere to this general principle. They are fully cognizant of the fact that the present system of taxation is inequitable and that the opposition will serve to alienate some of their following. They are taking this situation into account in their every word.

Senator La Follette has several more speeches to make in discussing his subject. He said that the revenue bill should raise approximately three billions instead of two billions which he said would be the result of the present bill. He said that the bill would raise a fair share of a fair price paid by the consumer and extending to him, on a reasonable basis, the cost of the war.

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It is said here by men who have access to returns from local and district exemption boards in many States that any tampering with the present rulings will open the doors to a flood of exemptions which are not demanded by considerations of national economy and which are not contemplated by the terms or legislative history of the conscription act.

Despite the specific provisions of the act, which clearly makes an existing and continuing dependency the only ground for an exemption of this kind, the Provost Marshal-General has found it necessary to warn local boards and district boards of appeal against a too lenient interpretation of the law.

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4 PETITIONS NAME HEARST FOR MAYOR

Continued from First Page.

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